



CHRONICLE OF THE  
**AZTEC CLUB OF 1847**  
Military Society of the Mexican War

Fall, 1995

Our 148<sup>TH</sup> Year

Editor: Rick Breithaupt

**AZTEC CLUB  
and the  
SAN JACINTO DAY  
Celebration**

Members of Aztec Club gathered on April 21, 1995 in La Porte, Texas at the San Jacinto Battlefield Site for the 159th anniversary of the celebrated victory when Gen. Samuel Houston and Col. Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar decisively defeated Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna on the banks of the San Jacinto River. In twenty minutes a Texan force completely overwhelmed a significantly larger Mexican army. They captured or dispatched virtually the entire force of 1,250 Mexicans, including Gen. Santa Anna himself.

Beginning the day of official Texas State Celebration was a special coffee reception at 9:30 a.m. hosted by the San Jacinto Historical Commission in honor of the Aztec Club of 1847 in the second floor library of the Museum. At 11:00 a.m. festivities began for a large public group assembled. Among the guest speakers before several hundred spectators was Club President Richard B. Abell. [His speech is reprinted elsewhere in this issue.]

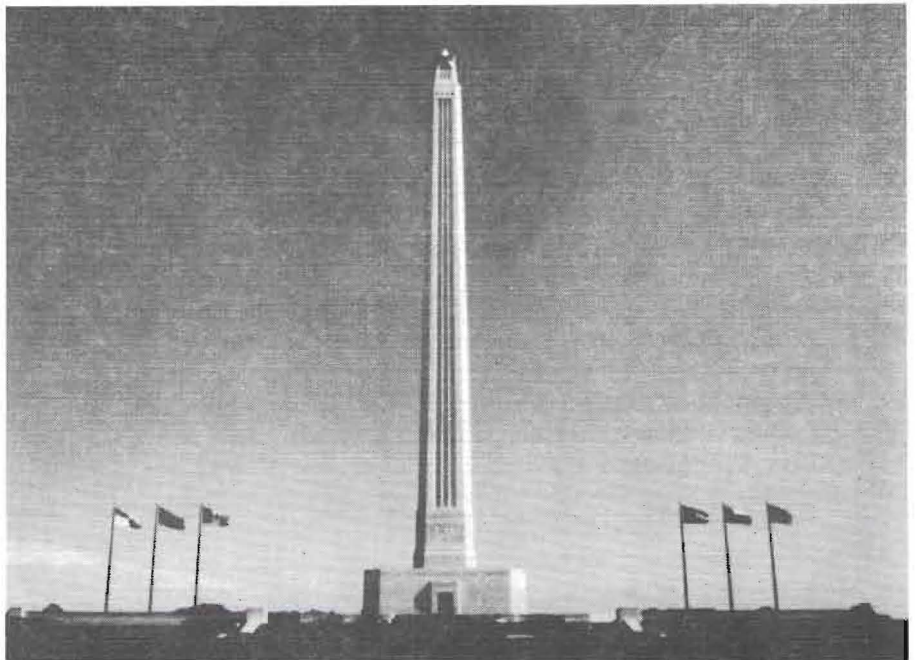
That evening the Club held its formal stag dinner at the Houston Country Club, courtesy of Aztec Club board member David Lacey Garrison, Jr. Members dined on a menu that included a traditional hot peanut soup served with *Pouilly Fuisse* 1991, a Texas mixed grill of seared filet of venison, wild boar sausage, grilled quail and seared black buck antelope accompanied by laced potato tower filled with sauteed mushrooms, carrots in a buckwheat crepe, onion marmalade and cranberry bread. All was quaffed down with *Nuits Saints Georges* 1988. The dessert was a confectioner's masterpiece of cannons and crenelated fortifications. The meal was followed by *Croft* 1977 port and *Montecristo* cigars.

Continued: See San Jacinto on Page 4.

**ANNUAL MEETING SET  
OCTOBER 14, 1995**

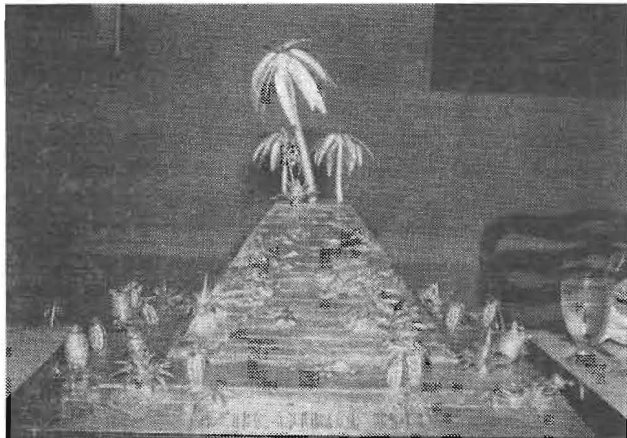
The Aztec Club of 1847 will hold its Annual Meeting at the City Tavern Club in Georgetown, Washington, D. C., on Saturday evening, October 14, 1995. The business meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. followed by a reception at 7:00 p.m. and banquet dinner at 8:00 p.m. [White tie, black tie or uniform, with decorations.] A separate announcement will provide further details and reservation information.

Our speaker will be Mr. Jeffrey D. Wert, author of *General James Longstreet: The Confederacy's Most Controversial Soldier, A Biography*. Mr. Wert's book is a dual main selection of the History Book Club and alternate selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. He will be speaking about James Longstreet in the Mexican War. Graduating *cum laude* from Lock Haven University with a B. A. in History, Mr. Wert earned an M. A. from Pennsylvania State University in 1976. He has published two other books: *From Winchester to Cedar Creek: The Shenandoah Campaign of 1864* [South Mountain Press, 1987] and *Mosby's Rangers* [Simon & Schuster, 1990]. A forthcoming book, *George A. Custer*, is being published by Simon & Schuster. Mr. Wert has been a contributing author to magazines such as *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *History Illustrated*, *Military History*, *Blue & Gray*, *America's Civil War*, *Civil War Magazine*, *Civil War News* and *Pennsylvania History*. He served as Associate Editor of *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War* and was a contributor to A & E's acclaimed *Civil War Journal* television special.



San Jacinto Monument

# TEOCALI



Restoration of the Club's historic Teocali, hand crafted by Tiffany & Company in 1892, has been completed. This historic "mess silver" was presented to the Aztec Club by Col. DeLancey Floyd-Jones on December 13, 1892 at the Club's 45<sup>TH</sup> Annual Dinner. Despite the fact that Tiffany agreed to do the work at cost, the Club's total expense exceeded \$3,000. *Contributions would be appreciated and may be directed to the Treasurer.*

## PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

<i>President</i>	Hon. Richard B. Abell 8209 Chancery Court Alexandria, VA 22308-1514 H-703-780-4934
<i>Vice President</i>	Mr. Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr. 17220 Hemingway Street Van Nuys, CA 91406-1608 H-818-609-0800
<i>Secretary</i>	Nicholas D. Ward, Esq. 1690 32nd Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20007 H-202-337-1653
<i>Treasurer</i>	Cdr. C. Lansdowne Hunt, USN (Ret.) 9101 MacMahon Drive Burke, VA 22015-1621 H-703-503-3110
<i>Registrar</i>	Capt. Thomas J. Turpin, USN (ret.) 6804 McLean Province Circle Falls Church, VA 22043 H-703-241-7007

## 1995 OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Hon. Richard B. Abell
<i>Vice President</i>	Mr. Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.
<i>Secretary</i>	Nicholas D. Ward, Esq.
<i>Treasurer</i>	Cdr. C. Lansdowne Hunt, USN (Ret.)
<i>Registrar</i>	Capt. Thomas J. Turpin, USN (Ret.)

### Members of the Executive Committee

Mr. David Lacey Garrison, Jr.  
Mr. Hardwick S. Johnson  
Mr. David Lee Whelchel, Jr.

### Council

#### (Living Past Presidents)

Mr. Frederick T. Drum Hunt  
Capt. Roy Campbell Smith, III, USNR (Ret.)  
Col. William Leland Hires, USA PAARNG (Ret.)  
Capt. Samuel Cooper Dawson, USNR (Ret.)  
Maj. Stirling Stokely Wilson, (Ret.)  
Nicholas Donnell Ward, Esq.  
Cdr. John Conway Hunt, USNR (Ret.)  
Joseph Wright Stanley, Esq.

- Capt. Thomas J. Turpin, USN (Ret.)
- Cdr. C. Lansdowne Hunt, USN (Ret.)

*Captain of the Color Guard*

Mr. Christian A. L. Abell

**Founded by the Officers of the U. S. Army  
Mexico City  
October 13, 1847**

## THE AZTEC CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!



The Aztec Club of 1847 is one of the oldest American patriotic societies, founded in 1847 by officers serving in the Mexican War. Original members were commissioned officers of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps, Regular or Volunteer, who actually served in some part of Mexico, Mexican territory or Mexican waters during the War with Mexico (May 13, 1846 to February 2, 1848). Membership in the Aztec Club of 1847 has been highly prized since its founding. Hereditary members are the male lineal or collateral descendants, who have attained the age of eighteen years, of such officers who were original members, or of those officers who would have been qualified to have been original members.

Members of the Aztec Club who wish to nominate someone for membership, be it a son, nephew, cousin or friend, should write the Secretary and include: name and address of the candidate, a brief biography, and the name and service of the qualifying ancestor. Application papers and information will be forwarded to qualifying candidates. Write: Nicholas D. Ward, Esq., Secretary, Aztec Club of 1847, 1690 32nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

**President Abell  
Addresses  
San Jacinto Celebration**

*Below are his remarks made on April 21, 1995*

I bring you greetings from the Aztec Club of 1847, the Military Society of the Mexican War, an association of gentlemen founded in 1847 in Mexico City by the then current American officers serving with the Army of Occupation and today composed of the descendants of those officers, both direct and collateral, who served in the first major American conflict on foreign soil. The building in Mexico City where our association was founded still exists.

For its size, this may have been the most capable and brilliant expeditionary force ever fielded by the United States. We won every battle starting with the Battle of Palo Alto here in Texas through the storming of the heights of Chapultepec and the taking and occupation of Mexico City. Like the Texas patriots of 1836, and the Confederate patriots of the War Between the States, we were outnumbered and outgunned at virtually every battle — not to mention that the Mexicans had much prettier uniforms! My environmental sensitivities are continually challenged when I ponder upon the peacock depletion that must have occurred in the wake of the army of His Excellency, President and General, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

No less than four American presidents have been members of our military society — Zachary Taylor, Franklin Pierce, Jefferson Davis, and Ulysses Grant. Those gentlemen who served as junior officers in the Mexican War became the general officers in 1861 for both the North and the South: Beauregard, Longstreet, Johnston, Lee, Hooker, Sherman, McClellan, Grant — the list is endless. If we project in reverse almost the identical number of years from the conclusion of the Mexican War to the initiation of the War Between the States, we then encounter the intrepid Texans who achieved Texas independence. There was a continuity of conflict. Texas sent the largest and arguably the most dedicated contingent of troops to the War with Mexico.

The issues of 1846 were essentially those of 1836: (1) the existence of a non-Mexican Texas, whether as an independent state or as a state within the United States; (2) the border delineation issue of the Neuces River or the Rio Grande, and of course; (3) our identical adversary, His Excellency, President and General, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. The playing field was larger; the results remarkably similar. What began as the Texan War of Independence in 1836 devolved into the Mexican War of 1846 and our "manifest destiny". From your brethren of the Aztec Club, I bring you fraternal felicitations. God Bless the Republic.

## New Members Elected

The following gentlemen have been admitted to membership in the Aztec Club of 1847 thus far this year:

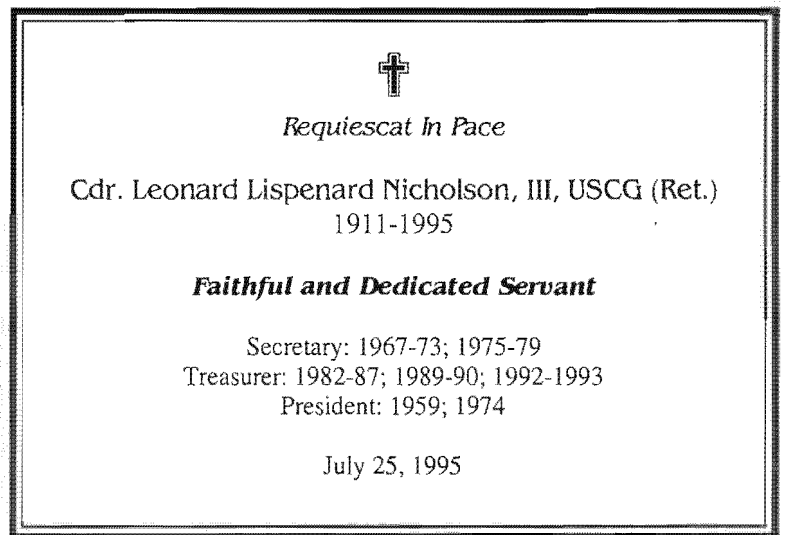
**Capt. William Stevenson MacLaren Arnold, USN (Ret.)**, by right of descent from Commo. Robert Field Stockton, USN.

**Capt. Stephen John Bentley, USA**, by right of descent from Lt. Col. Ferdinand Kennett, 1st Regt., St. Louis Legion, MO Inf.

**CSM Edward Patric Freeman, USA (Ret.)**, by right of descent from Capt. James Freeman, Co. B, 3d IL Vols.

**Hon. William Wiseman Huss, Jr.**, by right of descent from Asst. Surgeon William Alexander Harris, USN.

**Rev. Ronald Dennis Pogue**, by right of descent from Capt. Joel Milton Acker, Co. D., 2d MS Vols.



## AZTEC CLUB FUNDS ARTWORK ON THE MEXICAN WAR

The Executive Committee has approved funding in support of two pen and ink drawings commissioned for an upcoming book about the historical archaeology of the Battle of Palo Alto which occurred outside Brownsville, Texas. The book's authors are National Park Service archaeologist Charles M. Haecker and independent research historian Jeffrey G. Mauck. Produced in cooperation with the NPS, this authoritative work will be published by Texas A & M University Press. It incorporates elements of Mr. Haecker's previous research work, *A Thunder of Cannon*. Military artist Gary Zaboly, who illustrated the previous work, has agreed to draw two additional battle scenes: James Duncan's "flying" battery in action and a depiction of American soldiers formed "in square", a tactical maneuver perhaps utilized by American forces in battle just this one time, repulsing a Mexican cavalry charge. In addition to ownership of the drawings and copyrights, the Club will receive an acknowledgment in the book, the creation of the Aztec Club will be mentioned in the body of the work and a credit will appear beneath each picture in the book. *Ed. Note: The officers are indebted to Aztec Club member Dr. William Gist for bringing this worthy project to the Club's attention. Similar projects in keeping with the Club's mission to promote scholarly efforts on the Mexican War should be forwarded to the President for consideration.*

## ANCESTRAL SERVICE

A Periodic Series on Ancestors of our Members

### CHARLES HENRY SMITH, JR.

Maj. (MC), USA; Brig. Gen. (MC) CSA

By

Capt. Roy Campbell Smith, III, USNR (Ret.)

Charles Henry Smith, Jr. was born 20 August 1819 in Fredericksburg, Virginia, the son of Paymaster Charles Henry Smith, USA, and Evelina Stone Smith. His grandfather was Larkin Smith, Captain in the Virginia line through the Revolution and an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati, later Speaker of the Virginia House of Representatives, and the fourth great-grandson of Alexander Smith who emigrated to Virginia circa 1635.

Charles Smith became a surgeon, U. S. Army, serving as a major in Mexico. In 1856 he married Maria McGregor Campbell in Cooperstown, NY. She was a great-granddaughter of Col. Samuel Campbell, who commanded New York militia in the Mohawk Valley during the Revolution, and Jane Cannon Campbell, who survived two years as a prisoner of Mohawk Indians after the Cherry Valley massacre of 1778. In 1859-1861 he served as a surgeon of the famed 2d Cavalry based at Fort Mason, Texas, commanded by Col. Albert Sidney Johnson with Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee second in command and George Thomas as senior major. There is a page in the 1860 register of the Nimitz Steamboat Hotel in Fredericksburg, Texas recording a visit by Johnson, Lee, and Smith. The regiment was so predominantly southern that it was disestablished after the attack on Fort Sumter and all its people sent home. Charles Smith went to Richmond as a volunteer and was appointed Assistant but spent most of the War as Acting Surgeon General of the Confederate Army. He died 22 March 1879 in Washington, D. C.

Ed. Note: If you have an interesting account about your Aztec ancestor, submit it to the editor for possible inclusion in *The Chronicle*. In the last issue, a typographical error incorrectly stated Commo. William Wister McKean's middle name. It stands corrected here.

San Jacinto, Continued from Page 1.

To Mr. Garrison, a hearty "well done" for his attention to detail, sense of protocol, attractive carte, and originality of prandial presentation! The following day, April 22, members were invited to observe the re-enactment of the battle at the battlefield by several score of period attired re-enactors to appropriate musketry and cannonades. Those members remaining on April 23 visited the Fannin Battlefield and the massacre site at Goliad of Col. Fannin and some 341 of his men, and then attended the conclusion of the dedication of the Children of the Republic of Texas memorial at the gravesite of Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar. Lamas was the Second President of the Republic of Texas and Inspector General of the Texas Division in the Mexican War, and participated in the door-to-door fighting at the Battle of Monterrey. Aztec Club Past President Col. William L. Hires must be "mentioned in dispatches" for travelling the longest distance to attend, from Philadelphia.

## INSIGNIA AVAILABLE



Struck from a brand new set of dies engraved by artisans at Bailey, Banks & Biddle using an original Aztec Club medal as a model, the medal is simply exquisite. The 1½" medal, suspended from a Mexican green and blue ribbon, bears on its obverse (above) the Mexican Eagle and wording "City of Mexico — Army of Occupation" in high relief over green enamel. The reverse depicts an American Eagle and wording "Aztec Club — U. S. Army 1847" over red enamel. Members desiring to purchase a medal need to secure an authorization chit from the Treasurer prior to ordering. Pricing:

### Full Size Medal

Silver, w/Gold Plating	\$ 85.00
Gold Filled*	\$ 90.00
10K Gold	\$ 515.00
14K Gold	\$ 730.00

### Miniature Medal

Bronze, w/ Gold Plating	\$ 40.00
Silver, w/ Gold Plating	\$ 45.00
Gold Filled*	\$ 50.00
10K Gold	\$ 150.00
14K Gold	\$ 180.00

\*Recommended for those not ordering 10K or 14K.

### AVAILABLE FROM THE TREASURER

Tie (four-in-hand)	\$ 35.00
Bow Tie	\$ 30.00
Bow Tie and Cummerbund	\$ 80.00

All made of finest silk in Aztec Club colors.

**BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT  
A CONSIGNMENT OF MERCHANDISE  
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**